

**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2003 6:26 PM  
**Subject:** NEW CLASS OF POLLUTANTS

*Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members;*

*This quick read below shares some extremely enlightening information. (A) Many of the contaminates now being looked at as "new on the scene" do not come under EPA regulations (remember there are only 91). (B) Check out the lines that I set to **bold and underscored** which you will find unsettling. Go ahead, do it now and then come back to the remainder of my message.*

*Any idea where these contaminates could come from ? Here's a thought....there are literally tens of thousands of unlined landfills producing leachate, the liquidy goo resulting from rainwater and composting degradation of everything we through into the daily garbage including batteries, plastics, paint cans, unused drugs, diapers, old worn materials i.e. school bags, pajamas (your flame retardant in these items)...and even popcorn bags.*

*I love my Aquathin !!*

*Warmest regards to all...as well, your comments are always welcome and very much appreciated.*

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"Alfie"

Alfred J. Lipshultz, President

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## **Scientists study Lake Michigan for new class of pollutants**

**October 2003**

*U.S. Water News Online*

**CHICAGO** -- Scientists are testing water from Lake Michigan in hope of determining how a new class of chemical pollutants managed to spread through the environment and how dangerous the toxins are.

A \$100,000 pilot study by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in four areas down the length of Lake Michigan is the first of its kind in the Great Lakes seeking to learn how many toxins -- also known as "emerging contaminants" -- have made their way into lake waters and, perhaps, how they got there.

The emerging contaminants are used in flame retardants, stain-repellent coatings for textiles and countless household products originally presumed safe.

Such pollutants "are new to us, both environmentally and analytically," said water sampling project head Matt Simcik, an assistant professor of environmental chemistry at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

**The long-term health effects of the contaminants are not known, even though a majority of Americans are estimated to have trace amounts of the chemicals in their blood. No one is sure how they enter the food chain, or how to get rid of them.**

**Included among the chemicals are PBDEs, or polybrominated diphenyl ethers, which are used as flame retardants in everything from chair cushions to computer plastics. Their use is so ubiquitous that levels of PBDEs in humans, wildlife and the environment have been doubling every four to five years, according to the EPA.**

Some fire retardants with the chemical have been banned in Europe and California starting in 2004 and 2008, respectively.

Even more puzzling to scientists are two other related chemicals -- PFOS and PFOA -- used in the manufacture of a range of products from Teflon to microwave popcorn bags.

**"I don't think we have any clue as to the long-term consequences to human health," said Deborah Swackhamer, who heads the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota.**

**Results from the EPA's study won't be ready for months. But emerging contaminants have been detected in fish from all five Great Lakes, said Swackhamer, who conducted a fish study.**